

Ice follows the rain

21 January 2008

Heavy rain continues to affect many parts of the UK, with northern areas experiencing particularly wet conditions on Monday.

The Met Office issued severe weather warnings for northern England and Northern Ireland with 25 to 50 mm of rain in many areas, and as much as 70 mm in some places during Monday.

Barbara Young, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency said: "We remain on high alert following Met Office forecasts and are continuing to monitor the situation, clearing watercourses, strengthening defences and pumping out water where necessary. If you live in an area that is affected by the warnings and severe warnings, then precautionary measures should be taken."

Snow is also expected across parts of northern England and southern Scotland with up to 20 cm of snow possible over high ground.

Martin Young, Chief Forecaster at the Met Office said: "Heavy rainfall and snow are cause for concern at the moment. However, as the rain moves away overnight frost and ice will greet many on Tuesday morning, which could affect driving conditions on some roads."

The break from the rain will only be brief as more returns from the west although this should generally be lighter than recently. Looking a little further ahead, some respite may be on the horizon as high pressure looks likely to build across the south and bring drier conditions by the weekend.

The public are encouraged to keep up to date with latest Met Office forecasts through its website on TV and over the radio.

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